

**IN THE CLAIMS**

The claims pending in the application are reproduced below for the convenience of the Examiner.

1. (original) An apparatus, comprising:  
a metallic substrate;  
an electroless nickel layer disposed over the metallic substrate; and  
an outer electrolytic nickel layer disposed over the electroless nickel layer.
2. (original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, comprising:  
an inner electrolytic nickel layer disposed over the metallic substrate, wherein the electroless nickel layer is disposed over the inner electrolytic nickel layer.
3. (original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the electroless nickel layer comprises phosphorous.
4. (original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, comprising a polymeric coating layer disposed over the outer electrolytic nickel layer.
5. (original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the metallic substrate is a bearing component.
6. (original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the outer electrolytic nickel consists essentially of nickel.
7. – 26. (canceled).